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# "Sweater Dress-Up"

by Sue Mullins

Technical Journalism Senior

Better take a second look before you discard that old sweater or pass it on to little sis. Chances are, with a little ingenuity you can restyle it to fit your wardrobe more satisfactorily than when new.

Even though you give your sweaters the best of care, they are apt to become thin at the elbows or to stretch out at the neck. By cutting off the sleeves just above the elbow and applying knit, crocheted or fabric collar and cuffs, you can double the life of your sweater. Stitch around the sleeves to prevent stretching and then cut the sleeves about one-fourth of an inch longer than you want them to be when finished. Apply the cuffs about one-fourth of an inch from the cut edge. After trimming has been applied, bind the inside of the cuffs with grosgrain ribbon to prevent raveling. It doesn't take much longer to cover matching buttons, and the all-over effect is more unified.

If a pullover has become too small, slit it down the center front and trim neck, cuffs and center edges to match a skirt for casual wear, or with Swiss ribbon or fur for a dressier style. Before applying the trim you will have to stitch along the cut edges to keep them from raveling.


If you've grown tired of an old sweater, you can dress it up with applied design too. Ribbon is one of the easiest materials to work with. The "Sunburst" design pictured is trimmed in Swiss ribbon. Blind stitch the ribbon down the front, then slit over the original buttonholes. Turn a narrow edge and re-buttonhole, stitching ribbon and sweater together. The ribbon radiating from the neckline is also blind stitched on. The buttons were commercially covered with matching ribbon.

Lace may be purchased by the yard and applied to sweater fronts for a dressier effect. It may be used plain or beaded. Lace medallions, also plain or



beaded, may be applied to dress sweaters. Cuffs on all dress-type sweaters should be slit along the seam, bound and turned up.

Fabric trim to match a skirt is probably most common for college coeds. But for the more unusual sweaters, other trims are available at most department stores. These include cord, straw, velvet ribbon, metallic ribbon, pearl beading and angora. Fur trim, although more expensive, makes beautiful dress sweaters.



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